



TOWN OF MANSFIELD

OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

YSB Advisory Minutes
June 10, 2014
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Chuck Leavens, E O Smith Counselor
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Kate Bohannon, YSB Social Worker
Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services
Jared Redmond, Mansfield Recreation Coordinator
Carolyn McAuliffe, Senior Outreach Social Worker
Stephen King, State Trooper

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM by Ethel Mantzaris.

II. Approval of minutes

- 5/13/2014 Minutes

III. Reports

- Director's Report – Patricia Schneider
 - Carolyn McAuliffe, Senior Outreach Social Worker, explained her role in the department and the services she provides.
 - Department has chosen a preferred candidate for the Senior Center program coordinator position. She will be meeting with Matt Hart, Town Manager, and introductions to the town staff will be conducted on Friday.
- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak
 - **State Police:** Youth Service's social worker Kate Bohannon participated in a police ride-along with Officer Steven King, police representative to the Youth Advisory board. The goal is to strengthen the relationship between Youth Services and the state police to facilitate collaboration in our work with youth and families.

- **UConn Community Outreach:** YSB staff acknowledged as community partners and our COPE program was recognized as Outstanding Service to the community.
 - **Adolescent Mental Health Conference:** Youth Service's social worker Kate Bohannon participated in a training on mental health and adolescents. The two lectures were "Mindfulness, Mindsight and the Brain: What is Mind and Mental Health?" and "Minding the Teenage Brain: Adolescence as a Period of Opportunity and Vulnerability for Mental Health".
 - **Middle School Transitional Support:** YSB staff is assisting eighth graders in their transition to high school through a peer mentoring program which includes a tour of the school, assistance signing up for extra-curricular activities and guidance in back-to-school planning and preparation. A rising EO Smith senior will be doing her senior project with us and her product will be an organized sample backpack to leave in the YSB office.
 - **Elementary School Transitional Support:** YSB staff participated in welcoming fourth grade students to the middle school with a tour and question/answer session. This is a good opportunity for us to identify which of our Cope students will need extra support and to begin collaboration with middle school counselors.
 - **Parent Group:** This group meets monthly to support parents with children on medication and will continue to meet over the summer. YSB staff also facilitated an introduction between mothers for mentoring and support. We hope to expand this program to help more mothers with young children.
 - **Read and Feed:** YSB staff and the Human Services Director met with library staff to explore a summer program that would add food distribution to the Book Bus sites.
- Teen Center Update- Jared Redmond
 - Reported on the movie night and upcoming 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Talked about upcoming events at the Community Center for teens including a Friday night movie night and a 3 on 3 basketball tournament.

IV. Old Business:

- Challenge
 - Town Council put \$5,000 into the Parks and Recreation department to fund a therapeutic adventure program.
- Volunteer Recognition – April 9, 2014
 - It was a great night attended by over 70 people.
- Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Grant
 - The grant application has been submitted.
- Betsy Hamill Memorial Campership Fund
 - This fund, in combination with the town's fee waiver, the Noah Farland Memorial Fund, the Lion's Club, and private donations helped assist over 100 Mansfield students attend summer camp.

V. New Business:

- Youth Services' use of the community center with students who are non-members.

VI. Other:

- None

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m. September 9, 2014 is the next meeting.